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The extracurricular learning environment at :metabolon - an authentic learning site for knowledge transfer and lifetime learning

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The project

Fig. 1. Aerial image of the waste disposal centre

The whole site of the waste disposal centre Leppe in Lindlar has been modified by the project :metabolon into an authentic learning site for knowledge transfer. Addressing all age groups, the project offers insights into environmental knowledge and explains contexts of resources and material flows. The site conditions allow practical outlooks on future energy systems. Following the meta theme of "lifetime learning", pupils and students are addressed by different modules, considering their individual learning levels.

That learning landscape has been shaped hand in hand with surrounding education institutions to enhance the project. The formation of networks with partners of industry, craft, research and education facilitates the exchange in respect to specific demands and enables the view beyond individual horizons.

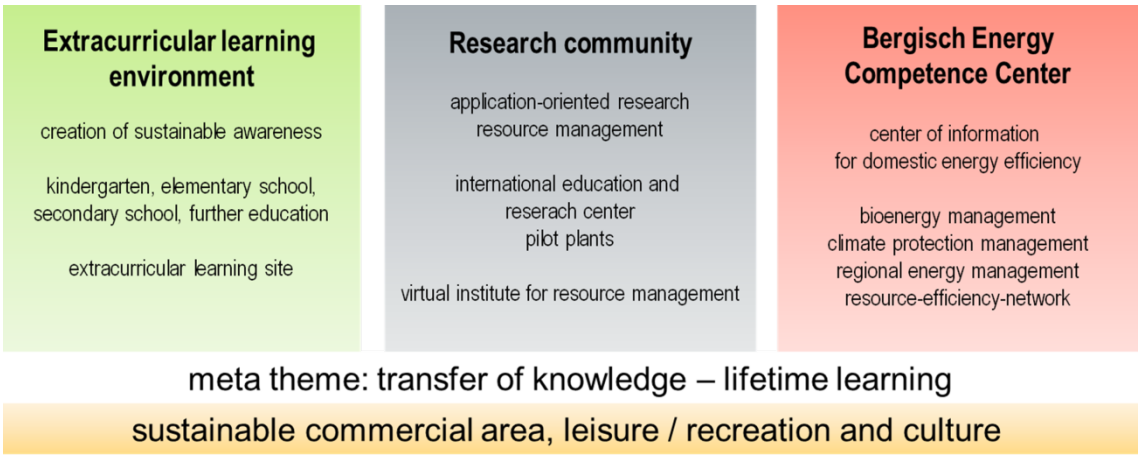

Fig. 2. Project structure of :metabolon

Extracurricular learning environment

By means of different initiatives like “Haus der kleinen Forscher”-network for day care centers and primary schools, supported by the Hans Hermann Voss foundation, all ages of children and students can be reached. For primary and secondary education, extracurricular learning sites and school labs have been installed and interlinked with offers for vocational trainings and academic education. By means of playful learning as well as informative communication systems, visitors can increase their knowledge in site related topics like waste management, re- and upcycling, resources efficiency,- sufficiency or sustainability. Also the utilization of renewable energies can be experienced directly on site.

The different offers of the extracurricular learning site :metabolon are starting with content for pre- and primary school. The provided topics are broken down age-appropriate to enable a first sustainable contact with the themes waste prevention and -recycling, resources and renewable energies. A playful approach and connections to situations of reality allow a better understanding of the topics.

Fig. 3 Impressions of the extracurricular learning site

For secondary school the offered topics are covered more intensely. Pupils are getting motivated to compile different issues in small working groups and to scrutinize topic related processes. The promotion of natural sciences and sensitization for the topics environment, resources and future energy systems are subjects at the students lab “MINT LAB”. This extracurricular learning site is a consistent progression with the aim to delight pupils for natural and technical topics. In addition the pupils learn more about their future opportunities by starting a study or an apprentice-ship within the field of natural or technical sciences.

For qualified teachers the topics of the extracurricular learning site provide a wide range for integration into school education. The attending of the extracurricular learning site is a practical and useful addition to common school life.

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